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## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC 3758-80  
23 May 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment  
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM: Robert C. Ames  
National Intelligence Officer for Near East and South Asia

SUBJECT: Monthly Warning Assessment: Near East and South Asia

1. Autonomy Talks. Consensus was that not much will happen in the region as 26 May passes. Sadat has taken the heat off by suspending talks last week. It doesn't look like he will be able to pull another "rabbit out of the hat" though to achieve a major breakthrough and he appears to be planning to focus more on domestic issues during the summer. There was some feeling that we might see much more anti-US rhetoric by the Steadfastness Front states after the "failure" to achieve progress and stepped up terrorist attacks by the PLO against Israel, especially against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank. All seemed to agree that the Arabs don't expect much from the US prior to the November US elections. The Arabs might use this period to step up the search for alternatives to the CDA framework, perhaps zeroing in on a European initiative at the UN to redefine the Palestinian issue as one of self-determination rather than of refugees.

2. Pakistan. Soviet/Afghan incidents along the Pakistan border do not reflect a basic change in Soviet policy toward Pakistan but seem to be more in the nature of a reminder to Islamabad of the danger it runs in supporting the Afghan insurgents. The Soviets may also have hoped to intimidate President Zia on the eve of the Islamic Conference, hoping he would take a less strident stance there. Another form of pressure on Pakistan, it was pointed out at the meeting, is the training in Afghanistan of Baluchis from Pakistan in guerrilla warfare.

3. Syria. The issue was raised of a possible signing of a Soviet-Syrian Friendship Treaty. Moscow seems to be pushing this a bit more in

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recent months, i.e. Gromyko's call for new qualitative level in relations. Syria is interested in strengthening political ties to Soviets, but, on balance, is probably not ready to tie the knot of a treaty. There was some discussion of the possibility that Syria might call on Soviets to help control domestic violence in Syria. Consensus seemed to be that while Assad could seek Soviet advice, actual Soviet involvement in putting down domestic violence was extremely unlikely. It was felt that Assad would be "finished" if he did.

4. Issues of Note. The case was put forward that the continued delay of the Saudi leadership in appointing a long-promised new cabinet was indicative of the malaise in that country and an added frustration to those hoping for greater vitality from the government. It was further noted that student restiveness -- although quite minimal by Middle East standards -- was growing and would only be exacerbated by lack of any demonstrable evidence that the royal family is coming to grips with the country's problems.

Representatives felt that we could probably expect more trouble from President Qadhafi. There was some concern that he might select a symbolic date such as May 26 to strike back at the US for the expulsion of Libyan representatives. It was felt that an across-the-board cutoff of oil -- although very unlikely -- was one way in which Qadhafi could inflict serious harm on the US and the West. It was noted that his actions over the past several months were motivated in part by repeated efforts by dissident assassins at home and perhaps in the exile community to eliminate him.

5. Agenda Item for June Warning Meeting. As a result of the discussion of Libya, it was decided that representatives should come prepared to discuss in general Qadhafi's prospects, and scenarios for succession.

*Robert C. Ames*  
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